

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA! Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It's a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks, and a reason to fly the American flag.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2011

E-CYCLE


HIGHLAND IMPLEMENTS ECO-FRIENDLY PROGRAM FOR RECYCLING ELECTRONICS

A new Indiana law that went into effect July 1 bans computers, televisions and the like from entering the regular garbage collection.

All electronics may now be disposed of at the Public Works facility between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday or at Best Buy in Highland Grove.

Public Works Director John Bach said a recycler has stepped forward and will take items at no charge to the individual or the town.

Regency Technologies, which has offices in Cleveland, Atlanta, Chicago and Orlando, recycles more than 30 million pounds of electronic scrap each year.

"This company will pick up the discarded electronics from Public Works," Bach said. "They are able to take the items apart and find new uses. It is certainly the environmentally responsible way to dispose of electronics." 

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

Computers, monitors, servers, televisions, printers, cell phones, computer cables, computer mice, keyboards, fax machines, MP3 players, PDAs, video game consoles, VCRs, DVDs, zip drives, scanners and toner cartridges.

A NEW, USEFUL LIFE

Regency personnel dismantle the items, recycling CRT glass, shredding materials and sorting what remains.

Many of the components find a new life:

- Glass from CRTs is smelted and used to manufacture new glass.
- Recycled steel is made into hundreds of items from cans to washing machines.
- Plastic is recycled into new products, such as patio furniture and picnic tables.
- Precious metals from circuit boards are used to create commodity-grade metals.

NIPSCO ENERGY INCENTIVE

Power supplier NIPSCO is giving businesses the opportunity to have their energy use assessed with an eye towards reducing energy consumption and costs and helping the environment.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said NIPSCO will work with individual businesses to see if they qualify for incentives for such things as upgrading lighting using energy-friendly bulbs and optimizing heating and air conditioning.

There is no cost for the assessment. An application begins the process.

INFO: Call Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

FINANCIAL REPORT AWARD

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the town and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin for Highland's 2010 comprehensive annual financial report.

The designation was awarded by the Government Finance officers Association of the United States and Canada and determined to have met, "...the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story."

BUSINESS CORRIDORS OFFER TAX INCENTIVES

As the national economy begins to rev up, members of the Town Council want to have the tools in place to make sure Highland enjoys a piece of the prosperity.


The Redevelopment Commission is finalizing a second redevelopment district that will encompass most of the commercial thoroughfares in town.

The commission will meet 7 p.m. July 13 to talk about the plan that is designed to make new and existing businesses in the commercial corridors eligible for tax breaks.

"We are doing the groundwork so that as the economy recovers, the right businesses will be able to step right in," Councilman Dan Vassar said. "The steps we are taking now are necessary to revitalize Highland."

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said the commission is eager to advance the Commercial Corridors Redevelopment Plan, which has been 18 months in-the-making.

"We believe this plan will help attract new businesses to Highland and allow existing businesses the opportunity to expand by providing incentives for locating along a major thoroughfare," Petro said. "Legislation new to Indiana will allow us to provide tax abatement on personal property for qualifying businesses as well as tax increment financing and tax abatement on structures."

Tax abatement on personal property is key to inducing high-tech businesses, such as data centers, to consider locating in Indiana. 

LINCOLN CENTER UPDATE

A concrete pour that refuses to cure and a strike by the Operating Engineers has put the brakes on construction at Lincoln Center.

Town Councilman Mark Herak said he is hopeful that both conditions will be short-lived.

"It has been so humid, the concrete just won't dry despite the use of industrial fans," Herak said. "The flooring cannot be installed until the concrete is completely dry. Couple that with the labor issues and we are going to be in a holding pattern. We hope both situations will be resolved over the next few weeks."

STREET MARKET

The annual street market features local produce and artisanal goods.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through **Oct. 15**

WHERE: Main Square Park

VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE: Local produce farmers and artisans who would like to set up shop at this year's market can rent space by the week, month or full season. Electricity is available for a nominal fee. Registration deadline is one week prior to selling goods.

INFO: For more details or to register, call the park office at (219) 838-0114.

YOUR COUNCILMEN



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

BRIAN NOVAK - president
bnovak@highland.in.gov
(219) 810-7810



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
vice president
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:



GAZEBO EXPRESS IDEAS
c/o Highland Town Hall
3333 Ridge Road
Highland • IN • 46322

gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 381-0634
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd.
Highland, IN 46322



COMMUNITY THEATER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

DIRECTOR CREATES ORIGINAL DISNEY PRODUCTION FEATURING 71 PERFORMERS FROM AROUND THE REGION

While mulling ideas for this year's outdoor theatre production at the Main Square Park Gazebo, Stephanie Naumoff knew she wanted to find a musical that would appeal to young and old, alike.

When the director/writer didn't find exactly what she was looking for, she turned her attention inward and came up with a production of her own to celebrate the 30th year of outdoor theatre in Highland – centered on Disney and the musical themes that have appealed to generations.

“(Recreation Supervisor) Ruth Hashu-Roorda and I brainstormed and decided on a Disney Musical Revue where we wouldn't be restricted by a cast number,” Naumoff said. “We ended up with 71 performers for this show. It is a challenge getting 71 people, ages

DISNEY UNDER THE STARS

Come hear all your favorite Disney songs with background stories told by Director Stephanie Naumoff. Children of all ages will enjoy this unique musical under the stars. Bring a lawn chair.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

SHOWTIME: 8 p.m. **Aug. 4-6 & 11-14**

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at www.highlandparks.org

4 to 65 in one place at the same time, but it's been a ton of fun. With so many talented dancers, actors and vocalists, we can showcase everyone's strengths and give Highland a fun and electric production.”

TAKING THE STING OUT OF MOSQUITO SEASON

The soggiest spring/summer in more than a century has prompted concern that standing water will breed a bumper crop of mosquitos that carry the West Nile virus.

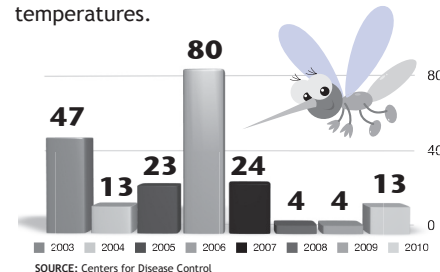
Already, mosquitos and birds have tested positive for West Nile in nearby Illinois. Typically cases of the infection in humans, who are sickened by the accompanying brain swelling known as encephalitis, occur in mid-to-late summer and early autumn.

Public Works Director John Bach said the town is doing its part, seeding standing water and ponded areas on easements with tablets that kill rafts of mosquito larvae and spraying nightly for the already hatched biters at dusk.

“We cannot do this by ourselves,” Bach said. “Everyone needs to do their part, emptying water that has accumulated in places, like buckets, watering cans and tires and cleaning bird baths regularly.”

WEST NILE IN INDIANA

Mosquitoes that carry West Nile flourish during extremely rainy seasons and hot temperatures.



PROTECT YOURSELF

- Apply insect repellents containing DEET.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants and socks, especially at dusk. Spray repellent over your clothes rather than on your skin.
- Dusk to dawn are peak mosquito biting times. Consider avoiding outdoor activities during these hours.
- Drain standing water.
- Install and/or repair screens.

Saturday in the Park

From weddings to birthdays to afternoon games of pick-up ball, the town park system has been created as green space for active living to be enjoyed by all. Main Square Park anchors a system that includes a handful of full-size parks, a series of tot lots and a bike trail that winds its way from Hammond on the north to Griffith on the south.

MAIN SQUARE GAZEBO

Once the storied home of Main School, Main Square Park has been preserved as an inviting space in the center of town. The Gazebo, which is the heart of the park, is a popular wedding venue.

Events in the park require a permit. Decorating, as well as chairs, are the responsibility of the permit holder. Electrical service is available. Decorations must be taken down following each event.

The park is heavily used for town events from May through September. The following items may be in the park: tents, picnic tables and bleachers. .

Rental fees for Gazebo weddings:

Both are Highland residents: \$50
One Highland resident: \$100
No Highland resident: \$150

Sales tax is applied to picnic rentals.
Driver's license is proof of residency.

ERIE-LACKAWANNA TRAIL

The region's first bike trail — the Erie-Lackawanna — is four miles long. All park rules apply to this linear park. The trails are heavily used for walking, jogging, biking and skating. Trail maps are available at the Parks and Recreation office. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

MORE INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at www.highlandparks.org

PARK SHELTER RENTALS

The following parks are complete with shelters, washrooms and drinking fountains to make your reunion or corporate picnic more enjoyable:

Homestead Park: 8000 Parrish Avenue
Meadows Park: 9400 Southmoor Avenue
Sheppard Park: 9217 Liable Road
Markley Park: 9501 Saric Drive

Rentals are on a first-come, first served basis and can accommodate up to 250 people. Fees include picnic tables, trash cans and clean-up. Fifty-gallon grills may be rented for \$35. Reservations must be made eight days in advance. Sales tax is applied to picnic rentals.

Resident Rates:

50 people and under: \$60
51-100 people: \$90
101-150 people: \$120
151-200 people: \$150
201 people or more: \$180
Non-residents: \$60 more per category

KIOSK ADVERTISING

Four advertising slots on the town's kiosks have become available.

At \$300 per year, Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said the panels provide a great opportunity for businesses in town to advertise in locations typically off-limits. Each panel provides an organization the opportunity to advertise 24/7 and at competitive prices.

INFO: For pricing, set-up fees and locations, call Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

HIGHLAND AUTHOR

Longtime resident and business owner Thomas Ray Crowel will talk about his inspiration for his three books, including his latest novel, "Cry Uncle Sumboddy," based on the historic diary of a common foot soldier.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, **July 14**

WHERE: Highland Public Library

REGISTER: Call First Financial at (219) 972-7353 to register.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK

No Health Insurance? High Deductible? Healthchek offers affordable blood work without hidden fees.

WHEN: 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, **July 9**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

COST: \$45

NOTE: Fasting recommended, drink lots of water, take medications as directed.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

3V3 SOCCER TOURNNEY

Come out and cheer on your favorite players — U8 to U19 — as they compete in the Highland Soccer Club's 18th annual 3V3 tournament.

WHEN: 9 a.m. **July 16**

WHERE: Sharp Athletic Complex

INFO: www.highlandsoccer.org

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends and get your questions answered by our officers at the next Crime Watch.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **July 13**

WHERE: Highland Public Library

INFO: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at the Police Department, (219) 838-3184.



KID'S FISHING CONTEST

Boys and girls are invited to come out to Meadows Park Pond and enjoy a morning of fishing activities. Contestants will participate in a catch and release fishing tournament and a casting contest. Prizes will be given out for winners of each event. Bring your own fishing pole, hooks and bobbers. Bait will be provided.

WHEN: 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, **July 23**

WHERE: Meadows Park Pond

AGES: 6 to 13 year olds

FEE: \$7 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Highland Parks and North Township have each created a roster of summer outdoor concerts. Grab a lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to the parks.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

SHOWTIME: 7 p.m. **July 7, 14, 21**

ADMISSION: Free

AGES: All ages

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at www.highlandparks.org

WHERE: Wicker Park Gazebo

DOORS OPEN: 7 p.m. **July 7, 14, 21, 28**

SHOWTIME: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

ADMISSION: \$5

AGES: 21 and over

INFO: Call (219) 838-3420 or visit www.wickermemorialpark.com

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Join the Police, Fire and Public Works departments for hot dogs, hamburgers and lemonade. These professionals will discuss their jobs and allow visitors to tour their vehicles.

WHEN: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, **July 26**

WHERE: Homestead Park

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

WHITE SOX TRAINING CAMPS

Camp 1 focuses on throwing, hitting, bunting, fielding, pitching and base running. Camp 2 builds on the basics.

WHEN: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. **July 18-22**

STC 1: Ages 7 to 8

STC 2: Ages 9 through 12

WHERE: Sharp Athletic Complex

APPLICATIONS: Available at Lincoln Center and www.bullsoxacademy.com

FEE: \$199 per player

INFO: Call (630) PLAYBAL

CHICAGO BULLS ACADEMY

Improve every aspect of your basketball game including ball handling, shooting, passing, and individual offensive moves.

WHEN: **July 25-29**

ROOKIES: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

VETERANS: 1 to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

APPLICATIONS: Available at Lincoln Center and www.bullsoxacademy.com

FEE: \$199 per player

INFO: Call (630) PLAYBAL

CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

Get ready to tee-off at the 2011 golf outing sponsored by the Highland and Griffith chambers of commerce.

WHEN: 11 a.m. registration/lunch, noon shotgun start, 4:30 p.m. dinner **July 29**

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$95 per person includes lunch, golf, cart, dinner and golf balls.

CONTESTS: \$25 cash prize at each hole, Skins Game, Beat the Banker and more.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Deadline to register for baseball's second season — from mid-August through September — is **July 18**. Divisions are:

T-BALL/ROOKIE: Ages 4-6

MINOR B: Ages 6-8

MINOR A: Ages 8-10

MAJORS: Ages 9-12

TO REGISTER: Call HLL President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945.

FOOTBALL MOM'S LUNCHEON

Join us for food, fun and football as the football mom's host their annual luncheon. Proceeds benefit the Highland High School football team.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. **July 30**

WHERE: Highland High Auxiliary Gym

TICKETS: \$15

INFO: Call Lina Gordon at (219) 712-2742 or email at linagordon4@aol.com.

ROTARY CORN ROAST

Join us for all the corn you care to eat. The roast includes hot dog or sausage, sauerkraut, dessert and beverage.

WHEN: 4 to 7:30 p.m. **August 5**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: \$6 in advance at Cakes By Karen, Lincoln Center and the Highland Chamber office; \$8 at the park.

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666.